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Contests

No contests at this time

Family to launch educational corn maze

03/24/03

By [James Mayse](#)
 Messenger-Inquirer

Like a lot of Kentucky farmers, Phillip and Pat Lambert were looking for ways to replace declining tobacco income. But, for the region, the potential solution they found was a little off the beaten path.

This fall, the Lamberts will open LambertLand Maize & Pumpkin Patch, which will include an 11.5 acre corn maze, a soybean maze for small children, a pumpkin patch, an education center and picnic areas.

"We're going to open on Sept. 6, and we'll close the first week of November," Pat Lambert said. "We felt the community needed a fun family activity, and something different. We're not trying to copy Reid's (Apple Festival) at all: We're just trying to focus on fall activities."

Although much of the Lamberts' effort will be aimed at attracting school field trips, another goal is to draw people from outside the region to their western Daviess County farm.

According to the West Kentucky Corporation, there are only a few agritourism events in the Henderson-Owensboro region. The group includes the Owensboro Farmer's Market on it's agritourism list -- but omits the Apple Festival, and the activities at Cowboy's of Kentucky, which regularly holds rodeos and equestrian events.

Kara Keeton, communications director for the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, said the state has received few applications for Agricultural Diversification funds for tourism-related projects.



Affiliate



"We haven't received many projects that would be considered agritourism," Keeton said. Although the state board has received requests from farmers' markets, Keeton said "those are more for direct selling of a product ... rather than entertainment."

Pat Lambert said their operation would be aimed primarily at schools, and will offer student activities that conform with schools' core content. "Our main focus is the schools -- providing teachers with an activity that they don't have to teach because the maze will teach it for them.

"This year's maze is going to focus on geographic topics," she said. "We're just being creative and (appealing to) everywhere from elementary to high school."

On weekends, the business would cater to the public. The family also plans to hold weekly events and activities throughout the fall at the mazes, she said.

The family, Pat Lambert said, took their time deciding to go ahead with the project. "We'd been looking for several years for something different," she said. "We were looking for something I could do using creativity..."

"... and using the land and the equipment we had," Phillip Lambert said. The family waited until the land for the site was rezoned for commercial use before announcing their plans.

"You have to plant the corn quite a bit thicker, because you want it very dense," Phillip Lambert said. "We're still going to harvest it this year when we're done."

The closest corn mazes are in Evansville and western Henderson County, Pat Lambert said. Reid's Orchard also has a corn maze during Apple Festival season.

While researching the possibility of starting a maze, the family found corn mazes are often regional tourist draws.

"We found there is definitely a following," Pat Lambert said. "People will come from all over to visit mazes."

Phillip Lambert said the Owensboro area is probably not large enough to support multiple mazes. "If two entities tried to do it in one year, they would just be robbing from one another," he said.

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